

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action of July 28, 2003. Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-19, 21-23 and 25-28. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

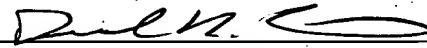
Claims 14-28 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, the originally filed claims 20 and 24 have been canceled and claims 21, 22, 25 and 26 have been amended. Therefore, claims 14-19, 21-23 and 25-28 are now pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 25 is objected to for containing a typographical error. By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended claim 25 to correct the error detected by the Examiner. Additionally, claims 21, 22, 25 and 26 were amended slightly to improve form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 25.

Also on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,046,601 to Hook in view of Applicants admission of prior art. While Applicants continue to traverse this rejection, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 20 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection at least since the claim cancellation renders the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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